

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,786,840. Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are also provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/720,419. The '419 application issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,824,478 on November 30, 2004.

To overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejections, and as the path of least resistance, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. The filing of the Terminal Disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting and raises neither presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection. It is submitted that obviation of the double patenting rejection by submission of the Terminal Disclaimer should not be construed as an admission or acquiescence or estoppel on the merits.

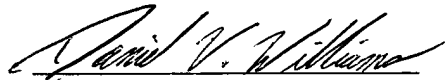
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/668,314

Attorney Docket No.: Q77676

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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